

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy for yielding me this time, and his leadership.

Indeed, following on the heels of my friend, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFazio), our distinguished ranking member on the Subcommittee on Aviation, with the gentleman from Florida (Chairman **MICA**) and with the gentleman from Florida (Chairman **Young**), we know in our committee how to work together to solve problems. We should be celebrating today what should be the ultimate expression of bipartisan support to make America safer.

Sadly, as has been chronicled by my friend, the gentleman from Oregon and others, that is not what we are doing today. We bypassed these opportunities and, instead, we have inserted in this bill provisions that would allow the deportation of suspects to countries where they can be tortured, enshrining a bizarre and despicable practice, even after the debacle at Abu Ghraib. It is not just immoral and in violation of treaties we have signed; it is a terrible risk to American lives.

If we were working together the way we know we can in our Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, we would not have provisions like this. We would have been able to work through the Commission recommendations, not leaving out 14 that are incomplete and 16 not included at all, but the way the other body has done, supported by the administration.

We would not have failed to take action to strengthen nuclear counter proliferation efforts. We would find a way to provide additional security assistance in Afghanistan, and we would not be in a situation where we failed to bring together, to give the National Intelligence Director sufficient authority over the budget and personnel of all of the intelligence agencies. We still have not remedied a fundamental flaw in our system that was made so evident in the report from the 9-11 Commission, what every Member of this House who has looked at it has discovered, that the FBI and the CIA could not communicate with each other, let alone with people within their chain of command.

Mr. Chairman, we can do better. The American public deserves better. We need to reject this proposal, adopt the Menendez amendment, and use that as a point of departure to give the American public the security they need, want, and deserve.